

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, JO, US
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN--JORDAN SITUATION AND
WORLD AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: KING HUSSEIN IS AS POSITIVE AND AS UPBEAT AS I
HAVE SEEN HIM IN YEARS AND DEFINITELY PLEASED BY THE NEW
PERSONAL VISTAS OPENED FOR HIM BY HIS FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE
TO NOOR HALABY. HE SEEMED GRATIFIED ALSO BY THE EFFORTS
BEING MADE BY THE UNITED STATES IN AFRICA, NATO AND ELSE-
WHERE TO FACE UP TO THE SOVIET CHALLENGE AS HE SEES IT.
HE OFFERED, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, JORDANIAN MANPOWER IF
THE U.S. AND WEST REQUIRES IT TO FACE CHALLENGES FROM THE
SOVIETS IN THE AREA. HE TALKED OF HIS RECENT CONVERSATION
WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD ON THIS POINT WHICH HE
SUSPECTS WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY JORDANIAN-SAUDI CONTINGEN-
CY PLANNING AS HE HAD PROPOSED TO FAHD. END SUMMARY

1. ON JUNE 11, I MET WITH KING HUSSEIN FOR AN EXTENDED
CONVERSATION AT HASHEMIYAH PALACE.

2. AFTER OFFERING MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS
COMING MARRIAGE, KING SPOKE TO ME AT LENGTH ABOUT MANY
OF HIS PLANS. HE PREFACED THIS PART OF OUR TALK BY
DESCRIBING HIS OWN MOOD AS COMPLETELY CHANGED WITH HIS
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DECISION TO MARRY AND DISCUSSING HIS RESOLVE TO IMPROVE
PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH HIS PEOPLE AND RE-ENVIGORATE THE
JORDAN GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS. I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM SO
ENTHUSED SINCE BEFORE THE DEATH OF QUEEN ALYA.

3. HE SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE NEED TO REACH THE RURAL
POPULATION OF THE KINGDOM, FOR HIM AND THE KEY LEADERS OF

GOVERNMENT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THE PEOPLE, AND THE NEED FOR HIS GOVERNORS TO BE GIVEN MORE POWER BY THE

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND TO DO MORE THEMSELVES. HE ELABORATED THESE THEMES WITH EXAMPLES AND SPECIFICS.

4. TURNING TO THE WORLD SITUATION, HE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA WHICH INDICATED THE WEST WAS INCREASING ITS RESOLVE IN FACING SOVIET-INSPIRED MOVES. I REVIEWED FOR HIM THE DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA PROVINCE, OUR IMPORTANT BUT LIMITED ROLE, FRENCH AND BELGIAN ACTIVITIES, MOROCCAN AND AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE, OUR RESOLVE TO STRENGTHEN NATO AND INTRODUCE A RENAISSANCE IN THE ORGANIZATION, AND FINALLY THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND OUR DEFENSE POSTURE AT WAKE FOREST AND ANNAPOLIS. KING SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT WE HAD BEGUN TO EVOKE A STRATEGY FOR MEETING SOVIET CHALLENGES. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT IRAN, THE GULF AND YEMEN. HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT IF IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, OR INDEED ANYWHERE, JORDANIAN FORCES COULD HELP TO PROVIDE MANPOWER AS FRENCH, BELGIANS AND MOROCCANS HAD, HE WAS READY TO DO SO. I THANKED HIM, TOLD HIM I WOULD REPORT HIS OFFER, AND RECALLED THAT HE INDEED HAD HELPED GREATLY IN OMAN, AND WITH ADVISORS IN NORTH YEMEN AND THE GULF AND WE WERE GRATEFUL FOR HIS PAST AND PRESENT EFFORTS TO HELP.

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5. HE CONTINUED BY EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD RECENTLY TALKED WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD ALONG THESE LINES (JOINT JORDANIAN-SAUDI CONTINGENCY PLANNING AGAINST COUP ATTEMPTS IN THE PENINSULA) AND THE SAUDIS HAD BEEN RECEPTIVE. HOWEVER, HE REMARKED THAT IN THE PAST THE SAUDIS HAD ALWAYS TENDED TO TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTED TO HEAR WHILE DOING NOTHING ABOUT IT. I SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT POSTURE WAS PART OF SAUDI HOSPITALITY, BUT HE SHOULD NOT FORGET AS WELL THE HISTORICAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN HIS FAMILY AND THE SAUDS AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT RELYING ON JORDAN FOR MILITARY HELP WOULD BE ACUTELY EMBARRASSING TO THE PROUD AND RICH SAUDIS. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIS LINES OPEN TO THE SAUDIS, AND I HOPE, INDIRECTLY AT LEAST, TO MUTE HIS THOUGHTS OF ANTI-COUP JOINT CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH THE SAUDIS, WHICH AT THIS POINT WOULD SEEM TO BE A NON-STARTER.

6. COMMENT: KING SEEMED TO BE ON A NEW UPBEAT SWING. EVEN THE RATHER DESULTORY SITUATION IN THE AREA (SEPTTEL) DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE DETERRED HIM FROM SEEING THINGS IN A POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC LIGHT.

7. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED. PICKERING

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